

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 10-13 and 15-18, and add new claim 19. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for monitoring devices connected to a network, comprising:

a relationship object maintaining part maintaining dependent information for each relationship between devices connected to the network, said dependent information being predetermined to indicate ~~how one device influences another device when the one device causes a problem~~ a predefined type of influence one device has on another device when the one device causes a problem, said predefined type of influence being selected prior to occurrence of the problem;

an event table maintaining part maintaining device information, which identifies a device in the network, indicated by an event received from the device;

an event collecting part collecting each event received from the devices and controlling the event table maintaining part to maintain the device information when the event indicates a problem; and

a problem alarm notifying part determining, based on the dependent information maintained by the relationship object maintaining part, whether or not each of the devices identified by the device information maintained by the event table maintaining part influences another device by the problem, and specifying which device is causing the

problem in accordance with a result of the determination, so that an alarm is displayed with respect to the specified device which is causing the problem and influencing another device.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dependent information is predefined for each of a first direction from said one device to said another device and a second direction from said another device to said one device by said dependent information between the devices.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
said device information maintained by said event table maintaining part includes a suppressing flag for suppressing said problem alarm notifying part from specifying that the device corresponding to said device information is causing the problem; and

said problem alarm notifying part determines whether or not the event table maintaining part is to maintain the device information of another event received from another device indicated by the dependent information corresponding to said event received from the device, and controls a suppressing flag based on the dependent information in accordance with a result of the determination, so that said problem alarm notifying part specifies which device is causing the problem by checking that the suppressing flag is off.

4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the dependent information, said event

collecting part controls said relationship object maintaining part to change or add the dependent information in accordance with a predetermined rule for defining the dependent information based on the relationship between two types of the devices.

5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a management object maintaining part maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed,

wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the configuration information, said event collecting part controls said management object maintaining part to change or add the configuration information indicated by the event, and controls said relationship object maintaining part to change or add the dependent information related to devices connected to the device that sent the event.

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a management object maintaining part maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed;

a management object displaying part representing each configuration information maintained by said management object maintaining part as a clickable image on a display unit; and

a relationship displaying part displaying several selectable types of the dependent information to define the dependent information between the devices corresponding to the clickable images when at least two clickable images are clicked,

wherein the dependent information defined by said relationship displaying part is maintained by said relationship object maintaining part.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a predefined type of influence one device has on another device when the one device causes a problem prior to occurrence of the problem;

(a)(b) maintaining dependent information indicating the predefined type of influence for each relationship between devices connected to the network, said dependent information being predetermined to indicate how one device influences another device when the one device causes a problem;

(b)(c) maintaining device information, which identifies a device in the network, indicated by an event received from the device;

(e)(d) collecting each event received from the devices and executing the step (b)(c) to maintain the device information when the event indicates a problem; and

(d)(e) determining, based on the dependent information maintained in the step (a)(b), whether or not each of the devices identified by the device information maintained in the step (b)(c) influences another device by the problem, and specifying which device is

causing the problem in accordance with a result of the determination, so that an alarm is displayed with respect to the specified device which is causing the problem and influencing another device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said dependent information is predefined for each of a first direction from said one device to said another device and from a second direction said another device to said one device by dependent information between the devices.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

said device information maintained in said step ~~(b)~~(c) includes a suppressing flag for suppressing from specifying that the device corresponding to said device information is causing the problem; and

said step ~~(d)~~(e) determines whether or not the device information of another event, which is received from another device indicated by the dependent information corresponding to said event received from the device, is to be maintained in the step ~~(b)~~(c), and controls said suppressing flag based on the dependent information in accordance with a result of the determination, so that said step ~~(d)~~(e) specifies which device is causing the problem by checking that the suppressing flag is off.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the dependent information, said step ~~(e)~~(d) executes said step ~~(a)~~(b) to change or add the dependent information in accordance with a predetermined rule for defining the dependent information based on the relationship between two types of the devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a step of ~~(e)~~(f) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed,

wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the configuration information, said step ~~(e)~~(d) executes said step ~~(e)~~(f) to change or add the configuration information indicated by the event, and executes said step ~~(a)~~(b) to change or add the dependent information related to devices connected to the device that sent the event.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising steps of:

~~(e)~~(f) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed;

~~(f)~~(g) representing each configuration information maintained in said step ~~(e)~~(f) as a clickable image on a display unit; and

~~(g)~~(h) displaying several selectable types of the dependent information to

define the dependent information between the devices corresponding to the clickable images when at least two clickable images are clicked,

wherein the dependent information defined in said step (g)(h) is maintained in said step (a)(b).

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a program recorded thereon for causing a computer to manage a network, comprising the codes of:

(a) selecting a predefined type of influence one device has on another device when the one device causes a problem, prior to occurrence of the problem;

(a)(b) maintaining dependent information indicating the predefined type of influence for each relationship between devices connected to the network, said dependent information being predetermined to indicate how one device influences another device when the one device causes a problem;

(b)(c) maintaining device information, which identifies a device in the network, indicated by an event received from the device;

(e)(d) collecting each event received from the devices and executing the code (b)(c) to maintain the device information when the event indicates a problem; and

(d)(e) determining, based on the dependent information maintained by the code (a)(b), whether or not each of the devices identified by the device information maintained by the code (b)(c) influences another device by the problem, and specifying which device is

causing the problem in accordance with a result of the determination, so that an alarm is displayed with respect to the specified device which is causing the problem and influencing another device.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein said dependent information is predefined for each of a first direction from said one device to said another device and from a second direction said another device to said one device by dependent information between the devices.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said device information maintained by said code ~~(b)~~(c) includes a suppressing flag for suppressing from specifying that the device corresponding to said device information is causing the problem; and

said code ~~(d)~~(e) determines whether or not the device information of another event, which is received from another device indicated by the dependent information corresponding to said event received from the device, is to be maintained by the code ~~(b)~~(c), and controls said suppressing flag based on the dependent information in accordance with a result of the determination, so that said code ~~(d)~~(e) specifies which device is causing the problem by checking that the suppressing flag is off.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the dependent information, said code ~~(e)~~(d) executes said code ~~(a)~~(b) to change or add the dependent information in accordance with a predetermined rule for defining the dependent information based on the relationship between two types of the devices.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the code of ~~(e)~~(f) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed,

wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the configuration information, said code ~~(e)~~(d) executes said code ~~(e)~~(f) to change or add the configuration information indicated by the event, and executes said code ~~(a)~~(b) to change or add the dependent information related to devices connected to the device that sent the event.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the codes of:

~~(e)~~(f) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed;

~~(f)~~(g) representing each configuration information maintained by said code ~~(e)~~(f) as a clickable image on a display unit; and

~~(g)~~(h) displaying several selectable types of the dependent information to

define the dependent information between the devices corresponding to the clickable images when at least two clickable images are clicked,

wherein the dependent information defined by said code ~~(g)~~(h) is maintained by said code ~~(a)~~(b).

19. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further including means for selecting said predefined type of influence prior to occurrence of the problem.